

the Senate for taking this action, and urge the House to do the same.

I want to thank the co-sponsors of this bill—Senators COLLINS, GRAMS, ROBB, TIM HUTCHINSON, DODD, ABRAHAM, SPECTER, BRYAN, GREGG, HELMS, and BIDEN. I am very pleased by the bipartisan support for the bill, and for the endorsements of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association and other law enforcement organizations.

This bill extends retroactively the benefits created under the 1992 law to the surviving spouses and dependent children of law enforcement officials who were killed between 1978 and the current start dates of the program.

It is important to extend these benefits back to the year 1978 because under the existing program, a large number of dependent children currently between the ages 8 and 21, those born between 1978 and 1992, are excluded from participating in the program merely because their parent was killed before 1992. Pushing back the date allows these dependent children, currently facing the prospect of paying for secondary education in the often financially strained environment of a single-parent family, also to benefit from this program.

This goal is consistent with the intent of the original law: an effort to show our gratitude to the maximum number of dependent children of slain law enforcement officers.

This provision affects the families of an estimated 4,100 officers, including more than 60 in Missouri. The bill makes these spouses and dependent children eligible for up to \$5820 a year for 4 years if they enroll in full-time study at an approved secondary school. In short, it helps the loved ones of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the rest of us by allowing them to pursue their dreams to move forward with their lives and continue their education.

On this occasion, I also want to thank a very important organization headquartered in Camdenton, MO—the Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. [COPS]. COPS was organized in 1984 with 110 members. Today COPS' membership is over 10,000 families. Concerns of Police Survivors, provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families of slain law enforcement officers.

Furthermore, COPS provides training to law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues and educates the public of the need to support the law enforcement profession and its survivors.

To help those families begin rebuilding their shattered lives, COPS is again hosting the National Police Survivors' Seminars as part of National Police Week—the second day of this seminar is occurring today in Alexandria, VA. For 15 years, COPS' National Police Survivors' Seminars have provided survivors of law enforcement officers

killed in the line of duty the opportunity to interact with other survivors and have access to some of the best mental health professionals available. I wish to thank COPS for the many programs that they operate in addition to the Police Survivors' Seminars, including scholarships, peer-support at the national, State, and local levels, "C.O.P.S. Kids" counseling programs, the "C.O.P.S. Kids" Summer Camp, Parents' Retreats, trial and parole support, and other assistance programs.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of police officers who protect the lives and property of their fellow Americans. By the enforcement of our laws, these same officers have given our country internal freedom from fear and are responsible for helping our nation lower its crime rates again this year. These men and women, by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts, have earned the gratitude of us all.

Officers who give their lives to protect our freedom leave behind families that must cope with the terrible loss. When this tragedy occurs, we have an obligation to help the spouses and children of fallen heroes. One way to help is to offer the opportunity to pursue their education. I thank the Senate for supporting this bill, and urge the House of Representatives to pass this legislation quickly.

#### BURMA'S FORCED MILITARY SERVICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on Monday, the Financial Times carried a story headlined "Burma Regime Has the Most Child Soldiers." As Burma drives toward a goal of a half million man army, more than 50,000 children have been forced into military service, with orphans and street children the most vulnerable.

These are the facts of life in Burma that no longer surprise any of us who follow the region closely. Forced labor, forced relocations, arrests, detention, torture, even executions are more facts—repeated so often that it is easy to develop a tin ear to the unreal horrors these words convey about daily life in Burma. Add words like hunger, disease, and illiteracy—add unemployment, injustice and drug trafficking, and you get the full picture of the misery the Rangoon regime has created.

As acute as Burma's pain is, this is not a day of mourning. Today is a celebration of wisdom and courage—a tribute to Burma's citizens who 10 years ago defied all risks and elected Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy [NLD] to lift the nation from a deep swamp of poverty, brutality and repression to the solid ground of democracy and prosperity.

The army may have stolen Burma's elections and her rightful past, but they will not be allowed to diminish our faith nor discourage our service to her future—to Burma's freedom.

For 10 years, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has honored the wisdom and courage of

her constituents through countless acts of self-discipline, heroic judgment and profound humility. Treated with cruelty, especially during her husband's final days, her compassion has not withered. Imprisoned, isolated by house arrest, she finds strength to reach out for a peaceful, political dialog with her captors. Wounded with each report of a follower's detention or death, she does not scar with bitterness, she does not retreat from her destined course—democracy.

Today, Senator MOYNIHAN and I have introduced a resolution of support for that destiny—for the restoration of democracy. Joined by Senators LOTT, HELMS, LEAHY, ASHCROFT, FEINSTEIN, LUGAR, DURBIN, KENNEDY, SARBANES and WELLSTONE, we are honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to those who persevere in the noble quest for Burma's liberty.

In particular, let me offer my appreciation to the Members and friends of the NLD who work tirelessly for Burma's free future and, especially the guardian angel of our common cause, Michelle Bohanna.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 15, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,665,244,853,842.93 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-five billion, two hundred forty-four million, eight hundred fifty-three thousand, eight hundred forty-two dollars and ninety-three cents).

Five years ago, May 15, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,881,377,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-one billion, three hundred seventy-seven million).

Ten years ago, May 15, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,092,389,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-two billion, three hundred eighty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, May 15, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,750,555,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred fifty billion, five hundred fifty-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 15, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$520,101,000,000 (Five hundred twenty billion, one hundred one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,145,143,853,842.93 (Five trillion, one hundred forty-five billion, one hundred forty-three million, eight hundred fifty-three thousand, eight hundred forty-two dollars and ninety-three cents) during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, this week I join people in Wisconsin and across the nation in celebrating Taiwanese-American Heritage Week. This week of celebration, from May 7 to May 14, honors the many diverse contributions of over 500,000 Taiwanese-Americans in the